NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
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LASZLO DOSA/WASHINGTON

SCIENTISTS FOR FREE INQUIRY

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ANNCR:

MEMBERS OF THE U.S. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES -- MEETING IN WASHINGTON -- HAVE ADOPTED A DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF FREEDOM OF SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY AND EXPRESSION. VOA SCIENCE EDITOR LASZLO DOSA HAS THIS REPORT.

VOICE:

THE ONE-HUNDRED-THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ACADEMY -- EMBRACING MORE THAN THIRTEEN-HUNDRED LEADING AMERICAN AND ASSOCIATE FOREIGN SCIENTISTS -- INVITED SCHOLARS EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD TO AFFIRM THE CONVICTION THAT THE SEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE AND OF LIVING THINGS THAT INHABIT IT, SHOULD BE CONDUCTED UNDER CONDITIONS OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM -- WITHOUT RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL OR IDEOLOGICAL RESTRICTIONS.

THE ACADEMY RESOLUTION SAYS THAT ALL DISCOVERIES AND IDEAS SHOULD BE DISSEMINATED FREELY AND THAT ANYONE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE THEM WITHOUT RESTRICTION. THE SCIENTISTS SAY THAT RESEARCHERS SHOULD BE FREE TO SEARCH WHEREVER THEIR INQUIRY LEADS, SHOULD BE FREE TO TRAVEL, AND SHOULD BE FREE TO PUBLISH THEIR FINDINGS WITHOUT POLITICAL CENSORSHIP, AND WITHOUT FEAR OF RETRIBUTION IF THEIR FINDINGS HAPPEN TO BE UNPOPULAR.

THE ACADEMICIANS, IN THEIR DECLARATION, NOTED THAT FREEDOM OF INQUIRY AND OF EXPRESSION IS ROOTED IN PERSONAL FREEDOM -- THAT FREE SEARCH AND DISCOVERY ARE THE PRODUCTS

OF A FREE SOCIETY. IN THAT CONNECTION, THEY CALLED FOR SUPPORT OF THE PRINCIPLES ENUNCIATED IN THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOR UPHOLDING A UNIVERSAL BELIEF IN THE WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EACH HUMAN BEING.

IN ANOTHER ACTION, THE ACADEMY ELECTED SEVENTY-FIVE NEW MEMBERS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR DISTINGUISHED AND CONTINUING ACHIEVEMENTS IN ORIGINAL RESEARCH. ALSO, FIFTEEN SCIENTISTS FROM ELEVEN COUNTRIES WERE ELECTED AS FOREIGN ASSOCIATES. THEIR ELECTION BRINGS TO ONE-HUNDRED-FIFTY-SEVEN THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

WJL/RCS